

## GLOSSARY *Continued from pg. 19*

a mooring aft of the head of the boat. A stern line runs from the stern of the boat to a mooring.

**PITMAN** The connecting rod between the crosshead and the crank. It is a 16-inch-square beam of longleaf pine reinforced with steel straps on top and bottom with appropriate bearing brasses at the ends.

**ROOF** There ain't no topside on a steamboat. There are several decks called roofs, the one above the boiler deck being the hurricane roof. Next above this is the skylight roof, then the texas roof and the pilothouse roof, where perches the pilothouse dome.

**SCAPE** (Contraction of escape). Exhaust.

**STAGE** The gangplank. That other thing up in the ballroom is the bandstand.

**STEER** A pilot steers. He is occasionally assisted by a steersman. When a boat rounds a bend in the normal manner with engine running ahead, she is said to be steering the bend, as opposed to driving or flanking.

**TEXAS ROOF** The roof above the texas, including the wide canopy around it. The pilohouse is on it. On the Belle, passengers are not allowed on this roof; it's too flimsy and spike heels make it leak.

**WHARF** Where the Belle ties up.

**WHARFBOAT** A boat used for a terminal at a wharf. Ours is the Andrew Broaddus, originally an inland Coast Guard station.

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## WHO DOES WHAT

**CAPTAIN** Licensed officer; responsible for all operations, is in charge during the cruise. Stands in for the Pilot when Pilot is on break.

**PILOT** Licensed officer; responsible for steering the boat.

**MATE** Licensed officer; oversees all deck operations; serves on the Captain's behalf when the Captain is not in attendance.

**ENGINEER** Licensed officer; maintains and operates the boat's machinery and electrical systems; maintains and operates the boat's engines and related equipment.

**FIREMAN** Controls the boat's boilers; maintains steam pressure.

**DECK HANDS** Handle lines during disembarking and landing; perform maintenance tasks as directed by the mate.

**PURSER** Officer (not licensed); oversees operations of concession and souvenir stands.

**BAR MANAGER** Oversees operations of the bar.

**CONCESSION, SOUVENIR, BAR CREW**  
Responsible for operations and sales in their respective stands.

**PORTER, MAID** Responsible for maintaining the boat's restrooms and preparing the tables and chairs for passengers.

## TODAY'S CREW

Captain

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Pilot

Mate

Engineer

Purser

**Historic information reported by**  
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### Publications of related interest

*Belle of Louisville*, Bates, A. Lawrence

*Steamboats On the Mississippi,*  
American Heritage Junior Library

*Life On the Mississippi*, Twain, Mark

